

Remarks

Entrance of this amendment and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 1, 3-13, 15-22, 24-26, 28-38, 40-47, 49-53, 55-63, 65-74, 76 & 77 will be pending.

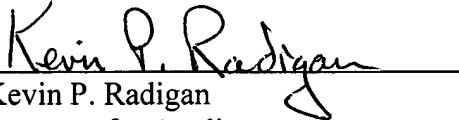
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 2, 4, 14, 23, 27, 29, 39, 48, 49, 54, 56, 64, 75 & 78 if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the amendments submitted herewith, the subject matter of allowable claim 78 is rewritten into each independent claim presented, i.e., claims 1, 15, 26, 40, 51, 52, 53, 65 & 67. Based upon this amendment, all independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, allowable dependent claim 49 is rewritten into independent form. Thus, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. These amendments are submitted without acquiescing to the substance of the rejections stated in the final Office Action, and are believed to render those rejections moot. In view of the amendments to the claims submitted herewith, claims 2, 14, 23, 27, 39, 48, 54, 64, 75 & 78 are canceled without prejudice. These claims are well covered by the subject matter of their respective independent claim.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin P. Radigan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 31,789

Dated: July 28, 2005.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579